

**Project Title: Clean School Buses**

**Project Description:** RC&D shall use SEP Funds to aid local school districts, area transit agencies, and local governments in need of funding assistance to pay for the cost of the following activities to reduce emissions: 1) replacing older diesel buses with alternative fueled or clean diesel buses; or 2) retrofitting older diesel buses with new cleaner technology. RC&D shall disburse SEP Funds to school districts, area transit agencies, or local governments on a needs-rated basis, using non-attainment area status, condition of buses, or economic status of recipient as possible rating factors if competition for funds exists.

To maximize use of SEP Funds, RC&D shall prioritize retrofitting as an approach over replacement of school buses. Older buses deemed not suitable for retrofitting will be permanently retired (never to be driven again) and sold only for scrap. RC&D shall provide the TCEQ clear proof of such permanent retirement and scrapping. Additionally, RC&D shall provide the TCEQ verification in the form of paid invoices and other documentation to show that the retrofits and replacements were completed.

Acceptable retrofit technologies include particulate matter traps, diesel particulate matter filters, nitrogen oxides (NOx) reduction catalyst technology in combination with diesel particulate filters, and other emission control technologies that are developed and approved by EPA or the California Air Resources Board.

SEP Funds may be used in reaching local match requirements mandated by the Federal Highway Administration's ("FHWA") Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality funding program. SEP Funds may also be used by the recipients as supplements to meet the local match requirements of the EPA. Information about RC&D may be viewed at [http://www.texasrcd.org/about\\_rcd.htm](http://www.texasrcd.org/about_rcd.htm).

**Environmental benefit:** Passengers, drivers, and students in the area where school buses idle during transportation are subject to harmful diesel exhaust emission every school day. Apart from containing the ozone precursors NOx and hydrocarbons (HC), diesel exhaust is known to cause or exacerbate a number of respiratory diseases, including asthma. Due to the more stringent emissions standards introduced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a model year 2007 bus will be 90% cleaner in terms of particulate matter emissions than a model year 2004 bus. New HC and NOx standards phased in between 2007 and 2010 will result in new school bus engines being 72% cleaner for HC and 90% cleaner for NOx than a bus produced to meet the 2004 federal standards for these pollutants.

**Eligible Counties:** Statewide.

**Minimum Contribution:** \$1,500